

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/891,850

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

Applicant(s)

HEGDE ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/8/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

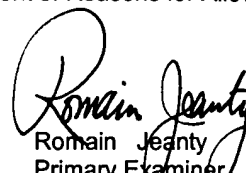
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
Romain Jeanty  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 3623

**Allowable Subject Matter**

1. Claims 1-23 are allowed.

**Reasons for Allowance**

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art is Dietrich (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,518). While Dietrich teaches an allocation method for generating a production schedule and determining what quantity of a product can be produced with a specified quantity of supply components and allocating a required quantity of supply components, Dietrich, however, fails to teach wherein the allocating step provides a supply schedule of material releases of product by rationing of the available component supply in each of the "N" separate release schedules as recited in independent claims 1 and 23.

The closest prior art is Dietrich (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,518). While Dietrich teaches an allocation method for generating a production schedule and determining what quantity of a product can be produced with a specified quantity of supply components and allocating a required quantity of supply components, Dietrich, however, fails to teach allocating the resources and component supplies to satisfy a scheduled release associated with the "N" separate and smaller sized schedule releases such that the assembly capacities and component supplies are rationed to maximize an output of product in accordance with the priority ranked scheduled release as recited in independent claims 11 and 22.

The closest prior art is Dietrich (U.S. Patent No. 5,548,518). While Dietrich teaches an allocation method for generating a production schedule and determining what quantity of a product can be produced with a specified quantity of supply components and allocating a

Art Unit: 3623

required quantity of supply components, Dietrich, however, fails to teach allocating the resources and component supplies to satisfy a scheduled release associated with the "N" separate and smaller sized schedule releases such that the assembly capacities and component supplies are rationed to maximize an output of product in accordance with the priority ranked scheduled release as recited in independent claim 18.

Claims 2-10, 12-17, and 19-21 depend from claims 1, 11, 18; therefore claims 2-10, 12-17 and 19-21 are deemed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Conclusion**

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Rothchild (WO9713211) discloses a method for determining a bottleneck for a product in a manufacturing facility.

b. Cheng et al (Production Scheduling of Continuous Flow Lines: Multiple Products With Setup Times and costs) disclose the concept of determining the setup schedule and production rate for a product.

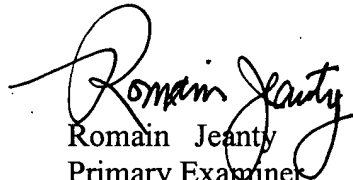
c. Faaland et al (Scheduling Tasks With Due Dates in a Fabrication/Assembly Process) discloses the concept of a scheduling product production in an assembly.

Art Unit: 3623

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am. to 6:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

November 13, 2006

  
Romain Jeanty  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3623